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MAR 18 2004

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TC 3800

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC
2723 SOUTH STATE STREET
SUITE 400
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104

In re application of:
Stephen Lewis Bruford et al.
Application No. 10/604,331
Filed: July 11, 2003
For: PICKUP TRUCK WITH LIFT ASSISTED
TAILGATE SYSTEM

: DECISION ON PETITION
: TO MAKE SPECIAL
: (ACCELERATED
: EXAMINATION)

This is in response to the petition filed on July 11, 2003 to make the above-identified application special on the basis of special examining procedure for certain new applications - accelerated examination as set forth in MPEP § 708.02 VIII.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

The requirements for granting special status under this section are: (A) a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i); (B) all claims being directed to a single invention, or an election without traverse if the Office determines that all the claims are not directed to a single invention; (C) a statement that a pre-examination search was made listing the field of search; (D) one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and (E) a detailed discussion of how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references in accordance with 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c).

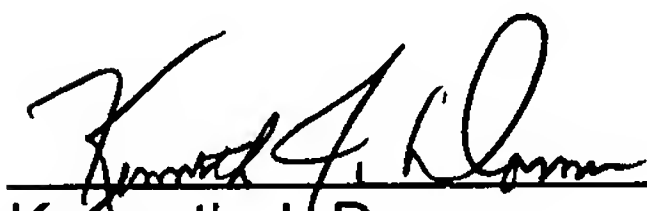
The petition filed July 11, 2003 fails to adequately meet requirement (E) above since the detailed discussion does not include a discussion of how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references. While applicants describe the invention and the prior art in detail they do not present a comprehensive discussion of how the claims of the present invention patentably define over the found references.

Petitioner is given one more opportunity to perfect the petition. Any request for reconsideration must be filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted.

Applicant should promptly submit a renewed petition to the Deputy Commissioner of Patents Examination Policy P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. The envelope should indicate that the correspondence be brought to the attention of Technology Center 3600.

Until the renewed petition is submitted, the application will be returned to the examiner's docket to await treatment on the merits in the normal order of examination.

SUMMARY: Petition to Make Special **DISMISSED**.



Kenneth J. Dorner
Special Programs Examiner
Technology Center 3600
(703) 308-0866

KJD/cps: 3/4/04